

John Lockwood Romer (brother of EJW's mother):

## BUFFALO LAWYER DIES IN ROCHESTER

John L. Romer Succumbs at  
Daughter's Home.

In the death of John L. Romer, who died suddenly yesterday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harold H. Baker, in Rochester, Buffalo has lost one of its most public spirited citizens, and the Erie County bar, one of its best known members. He had been a sufferer from dropsy for several months before going to visit his daughter five days ago, but as he had been attending to business up to that time, his sudden taking off was unexpected. The body will be brought to this city today for interment. Mr. Romer was a leader in the citizens' movement in the fight for lower fares, and prominent in church and charitable enterprises.

Born in the southeastern part of New York state, on the Hudson river, in 1846, he received his early education in the country schoolhouse, and became associated with his father, who was a building contractor.

A little more than half a century ago he came to this city and studied law in the office of Loran L. Lewis, Sr., senior member of the firm of Lewis & Gurney. Having completed the required course of study, he formed a partnership with the late Hiram Day. On the dissolution of the firm of Day & Romer, in 1899, Mr. Romer formed a partnership with Charles M. Harrington under the name of Romer & Harrington. Since the dissolution of the latter firm in 1911, Mr. Romer practiced law alone at No. 203 Erie County Savings Bank building.

For many years Mr. Romer acted as counsel for the Schoellkopf estate, and had a large hand in the acquisition of the hydraulic canal and Mile Strip, and the development of the vast Schoellkopf power interests at Niagara Falls. He was a trustee of the estate of the late Jacob F. Schoellkopf, Sr., and was its administrator at the final settlement.

Mr. Romer was counsel for several large estates, including the Stafford estate, owners of the Imperial hotel in New York city and the Stafford house in Buffalo. The only public office held by Mr. Romer was the office of United States loan commissioner, which came to him unsolicited about forty years ago. In those days the government found itself in the position of having considerable money to lend, interest from which was used to finance country schools.

For many years a member of Delaware Avenue M. E. church, he was chosen one of its trustees. When the late John

Recher left a large part of his estate for the foundation of the Blocher homes in Buffalo, Mr. Romer was appointed

his wife, Katherine Taylor

about six years ago. The

children are: Ray T. Romer

by Mrs. Charles C. Albert-

son of Brooklyn

remembered here

are Ave. 3

H. Baker

*Dies After Having  
Been Prominent Lawyer  
More Than Half Century*



JOHN L. ROMER.

## COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE TRIED, FOUND WANTING, HE SAYS

In discussing the compulsory health insurance bill at the weekly meeting of the Equality club at the Central Y. M. C. A. yesterday, Dr. Earl P. Lothrop said that the eighteenth amendment is a better insurance than the compulsory health insurance bill, "for if one keeps dry he is likely to be healthy, and if insured one is tempted to be sick."

The compulsory health bill originated in Germany in 1865. Dr. Lothrop said, and was not born of philanthropic parents, but was stirred up by political expediency and nursed by Bismark, who thought it would destroy the growth of Socialism in the youths of Germany. The project was introduced in this country by a college professor, and after a thorough tryout in nine states, seven of them found it to be impracticable. The speaker stated that labor in general was opposed to the bill, but its strongest supporter and sponsor was an organization composed of everything but laboring men.

ROMER—March 19, 1920, at the home of his daughter, in Rochester, N. Y., John Lockwood Romer, aged 74 years; father of Ray P. Romer of New York city, Mrs. C. C. Albertson of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Mrs. H. H. Baker of Rochester, N. Y. The funeral will take place from the residence of Millard F. Windsor, No. 703 West Ferry street, Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Friends are invited to attend.